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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0038K

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG MNUC PARM TECH NL
SUBJECT: ALMELO ENLARGEMENT AND URENCO FUEL SUPPLY TO BRAZIL

REF: (A) 77 THE HAGUE 6056, (B) 77 THE HAGUE 6281

1. PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT, IN ONE OF HIS FIRST ACTIONS,
ANNOUNCED GON HAS TAKEN DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO
PROCEED WITH THE ENLARGEMENT OF ALMELO NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT
FACILITY. THIS WILL CLEAR WAY FOR EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION
BY THE TRIPARTITE UK-FRG-GON CONSORTIUM. FOLLOWING CON-
SULTATIONS WITH FRG AND UK, CONSORTIUM PARTIES ARE NOW
READY TO DISCUSS WITH BRAZIL ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM.

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, MFA ACTION OFFICER
AGREED THAT NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT WAS FOLLOWING DIFFERENT
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SCENARIO FROM THAT ENVISAGED BY ITS PREDECESSOR (REF A)
BY HAVING TAKEN THE DECISION PRIOR TO CONSULTATION WITH
PARLIAMENT RATHER THAN AFTERWARDS. NEXT STEP WILL NOW BE FOR
THREE CONSORTIUM MEMBERS TO TALK TO THE BRAZILIANS, EITHER
THIS MONTH OR NEXT. PARLIAMENT IS TO BE FULLY INFORMED BY
LETTER IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO AND WOULD PRESUMABLY SCHEDULE
DEBATE SUBSEQUENTLY. IN SAYING ALL THIS, OUR MFA CONTACT

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CAVEATED HIS REMARKS WITH COMMENT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE MINUTES OF THE DECISION BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHICH WERE BEING VERY CLOSELY HELD, AND THAT HE WAS NOT UP ON DETAILS. PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT, HOWEVER, PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED DECISION DECEMBER 30. NEW GOVERNMENT EVIDENTLY CONCLUDED THAT WITH GUARANTEES BRAZIL SEEMED WILLING TO ACCEPT, THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE ENLARGEMENT ISSUE AS WELL AS THAT OF THE BRAZILIAN CONTRACT ARE FINALLY OFF DEAD CENTER. THE FOCUS WILL NOW SHIFT FROM THE INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH DELAYED DECISION FOR SO LONG AND WILL TURN TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CONCORTIUM PARTNERS AND BRAZIL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE HAVE NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THIS ISSUE WITH THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN A PERSONAL LEAD IN SECURING THE DECISION. THERE MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY, HOWEVER, TO DO SO SOON. FOR THAT REASON WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE REQUESTED REF B. MCCLOSKEY

UNQUOTE VANCE

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